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ALSTON & BIRD LLP

3201 Beechleaf Court, Suite 600
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Examiner Irina Sophia Zemel

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Christopher M. Humphrey

Message:

In re: Roberts *et al.*

Appl No.: 09/973,318

Filed: October 9, 2001

For: THIOESTER POLYMER DERIVATIVES AND METHOD OF MODIFYING
THE N-TERMINUS OF A POLYPEPTIDE THEREWITH

Confirmation No.: 3632

Group Art Unit: 1711

Examiner: Zemel, Irina Sophia

Please see the attached Response to Restriction Requirement (2 pages) and Petition and Fee for Extension of Time (1 page) in reference to the above-identified patent application.

Number of Pages: (including cover page)

4

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USER CODE:	HUMPC	REQUESTED BY:	Chris Humphrey
CLIENT/MATTER:	034848/234243	OPERATOR:	

Attorney's Docket No. 034848/234243

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT

In re: Roberts *et al.*
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N-TERMINUS OF A POLYPEPTIDE THEREWITH

Confirmation No.: 3632
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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

This is in response to the Office Action dated September 2, 2004, in which the Examiner has required restriction between Group I, namely Claims 1-32; Group II, namely Claims 34-54; Group III, namely Claims 55-75; Group IV, namely Claims 76-84; and Group V, namely Claims 85-97. Applicants hereby provisionally elect with traverse to prosecute the claims of Group I (Claims 1-32 drawn to a thioester polymer derivative) and expressly reserve the right to file divisional applications or take other appropriate measures deemed necessary to protect the inventions embodied in the remaining claims. Applicants assume the Examiner intended to place Claim 33 in Group II.

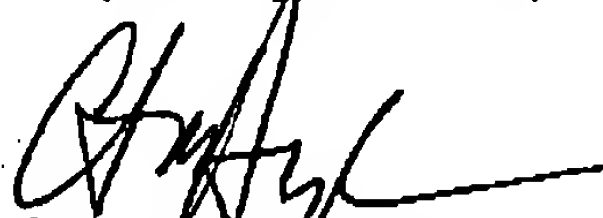
The Examiner has also requested an election of species with respect to the polymer backbone and structure, as well as Z, X, Q, R, and X'. Applicants elect linear end-capped poly(ethylene glycol) as the polymer backbone and structure (i.e., the embodiments encompassed by Claims 7, 9, and 15), and species wherein Z is O, X is H, Q is pyridine, R is alkoxy, and X' is H. Claims 1-23 and 25-26 read on the elected species. Applicants note that consideration of additional species should take place upon the allowance of a generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. §1.141.

Should the Examiner have further questions or comments with respect to examination of this case, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned so that further examination of this application can be expedited.

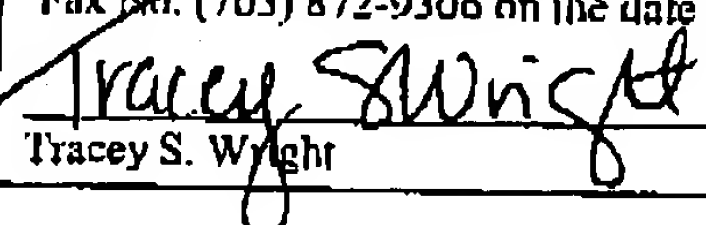
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It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those, which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,


Christopher M. Humphrey
Registration No. 43,683

CUSTOMER NO. 00826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Raleigh Office (919) 862-2200
Fax Raleigh Office (919) 862-2260

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